

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for supporting the development of ~~developing~~ inventions by a plurality of inventors, said inventors using a plurality of computing devices connected in a network, the method comprising the steps of:

creating by a first computing device a subscriber list, said subscriber list comprising subscriber records, each of said subscriber records having at least a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

storing said subscriber list in a database;

receiving by the first computing device a proposal for an invention from an initial inventor, said proposal including desired co-inventor qualifications;

creating by the first computing device a set of desired co-inventor qualifications; and

storing the set of desired co-inventor qualifications in a database;

creating by the first computing device a pool of co-inventors by searching for subscriber records in the subscriber list with subscriber qualifications matching the desired co-inventor qualifications, wherein said co-inventors in said created pool develop the invention described in the proposal for invention; and

contacting by the first computing device subscribers in the pool of co-inventors to inform said subscribers of the proposal for invention.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step[[s]] of:

~~contacting subscribers in the pool of co-inventors to inform said subscribers of the proposal for invention; and~~

providing by the first computing device a forum for the pool of co-inventors and the initial inventor to communicate and to further develop the proposal for invention.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the proposal for

invention is transmitted over the network, wherein at least one of said plurality of computing devices is used by the initial inventor and at least one of said plurality of computing devices is used for receiving the proposal for invention.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of creating a pool of co-inventors is performed by an Invention Proposal Server.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the step of contacting subscribers is performed over the network, each of said plurality of computing devices being accessible by one or more subscribers in the pool of co-inventors.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the step of providing a forum is performed over the network by an Invention Proposal Forum Server, each of said plurality of computing devices being accessible by one or more subscribers in the pool of co-inventors.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step of providing a forum further comprises a step of:

providing at least one web page as the forum of the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors, wherein a the at least one web page is a file and the Invention Proposal Forum Server acts as a web server for said at least one web page.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of creating a subscriber list further comprising a step of:

contacting, by an individual using a computing device, a Subscriber Database;
creating a subscriber record for the individual on the Subscriber Database;
inputting, by the individual, information including a name of the individual, contact information of the individual, and qualifications of the individual into the subscriber record; and
storing the subscriber record on the Subscriber Database.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of creating a subscriber list comprises:

- establishing non-subscriber criteria;
- using said non-subscriber criteria to select individuals;
- creating non-subscriber records for said selected individuals, each of said non-subscriber records including information about a selected individual; and
- maintaining said non-subscriber records on a non-Subscriber Database.

11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of: adding individuals to the created pool of co-inventors by searching said non-Subscriber Database for non-subscribers that match desired co-inventor qualifications.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each subscriber record includes a confidentiality level associated with the subscriber.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step of creating a set of desired co-inventor qualifications further comprises the step of:

- establishing a confidentiality level for the proposal for invention, wherein said confidentiality level is used to eliminate a subscriber from the pool of co-inventors if the confidentiality level of the subscriber does not meet the confidentiality level of the proposal for invention.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for supporting the development of ~~developing~~ inventions by a plurality of inventors, the system comprising:

- a network of a plurality of computing devices;
- an Invention Proposal Server for receiving a proposal for invention and for creating a pool of co-inventors from a group of subscribers;
- a computing devices for transmitting the proposal for invention to the Invention Proposal Server over the network; and
- a Subscriber Database for storing subscriber records, each of said subscriber records

having at least a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications, wherein said proposal for invention includes qualifications desired in a co-inventor and wherein the Invention Proposal Server creates the pool of co-inventors by matching the desired subscriber qualifications with subscriber records having similar subscriber qualifications, wherein said co-inventors in said created pool develop the invention described in the proposal for invention,

wherein the Invention Proposal Server sends a message to the pool of co-inventors over the network, said message informing each subscriber in the pool of co-inventors of the proposal for invention.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the Invention Proposal Server creates a-proposal for invention file from the invention proposal, said proposal for invention file including the proposal for invention, a list of members of the pool of co-inventors, and data generated by the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors.

17. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the Invention Proposal Server further comprises:

a means by which a group of inventors can access the proposal for invention file over the network; and

a means by which the group of inventors can add data to the proposal for invention file over the network,

wherein the group of inventors comprises the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors.

18. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 16, further comprising:
an Invention Proposal Web Server for providing at least one web page accessible over the network, said at least one web page comprising

a means by which a group of inventors can access the proposal for invention file over the network and

a means by which the inventor group can add data to the invention proposal file

over the network,
wherein the group of inventors comprises the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors
and said at least one web page is a file.

19. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 14, further comprising:
a computing device for transmitting, by an individual, subscriber information to the
Subscriber Database, wherein at least one subscriber record is created from the subscriber
information.

20. (Original) The system as recited in claim 14, further comprising:
a non-Subscriber Database for storing non-subscriber records, each of said non-subscriber
records corresponding to an individual, each of said individuals being selected using said non-
subscriber criteria to select individuals.

21. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 20, wherein the Invention
Proposal Server adds individuals to the created pool of co-inventors by searching said non-
Subscriber Database for non-subscribers that match desired co-inventor qualifications.

22. (Original) The system as recited in claim 14, wherein each subscriber record includes
a confidentiality level associated with the subscriber.

23. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 22, wherein the Invention
Proposal Server uses confidentiality levels in subscriber records to eliminate subscribers whose
confidentiality level does not meet a confidentiality level of the proposal for invention.

24 - 45 (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) A method of providing support for the development of
inventions ~~invention development services~~ of a plurality of inventors, said inventors using a
plurality of computing devices connected in a network, the method comprising the steps of:

creating by a first computing device a subscriber list, said subscriber list comprising a plurality of subscriber records, each of said subscriber records including a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

storing said subscriber list in a database;

receiving by the first computing device a proposal for invention from an initial inventor, said proposal for invention including desired co-inventor qualifications; ~~and~~

creating by the first computing device a pool of potential co-inventors by searching for subscriber records in the subscriber list with subscriber qualifications matching the desired co-inventor qualifications, wherein said co-inventors in said created pool develop the invention described in the proposal for invention;

contacting by the first computing device members of the pool of potential co-inventors to inform said members of the proposal for invention.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

providing by the first computing device a forum for the pool of co-inventors and the initial inventor to communicate and to further develop the proposal for invention.

49. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

obtaining by a fee collection system a fee from at least one subscriber, said fee entitling said at least one subscriber to subscribe to the subscriber list.

50. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

obtaining by a fee collection system a fee from the initial inventor, said fee entitling said initial inventor to obtain information concerning the pool of potential co-inventors.

51. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

obtaining by a fee collection system a fee from a corporation for creating the subscriber list using a subscriber criteria supplied by the corporation, for accepting proposals for invention using an proposal for invention criteria supplied by the corporation, and for creating a pool of potential co-inventors using a potential co-inventor criteria supplied by the corporation.

52. (Currently Amended) A method of providing support for the development of inventions for fee ~~invention development services~~ of a plurality of inventors, said inventors using a plurality of computing devices connected in a network, the method comprising the steps of:

providing by a first computing device a secured forum on a network for a pool of potential co-inventors and an initial inventor to communicate and to further develop proposal for invention, wherein said co-inventors in said pool develop the invention described in the proposal for invention.

53. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 52, further comprising the step of:

providing by a server at least one web page as means for the secured forum of the initial inventor and the pool of potential co-inventors, wherein the at least one web page is a file.

54. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 52, further comprising the step of:

obtaining by a fee collection system a fee from at least one member of the pool of potential co-inventors, said fee entitling said at least one member to access the secured forum.

55. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 52, further comprising the step of:

obtaining by a fee collection system a fee from the initial inventor, said fee entitling said initial inventor to access the secured forum on the network.

56. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 52, wherein the secured forum is on the Internet.

57-81 (Cancelled)

82. (Currently Amended) A computer system for supporting the development of ~~developing~~ inventions by a plurality of inventors, said inventors using a plurality of computing devices connected in a network, the computer system comprising:

at least one computer-readable memory including:

code for maintaining a database structure of a subscriber list, said subscriber list comprising subscriber records, each of said subscriber records including a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications,

code for receiving a proposal for an invention from an initial inventor, said proposal for invention including desired co-inventor qualifications,

code for searching for subscriber records in the subscriber list with subscriber qualifications matching a set of desired co-inventor qualifications for the invention proposal, ~~and~~

code for creating a pool of co-inventors from a set of subscriber records that match a set of desired co-inventor qualifications, wherein said co-inventors in said created pool develop the invention described in the proposal for invention; and

code that maintains a proposal for invention forum, said proposal for invention forum being accessible to the pool of co-inventors and said proposal for invention forum allowing the pool of co-inventors to post information to a proposal for invention file.

83. (Cancelled)

84 -87 (Cancelled)